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# U.S. officials expect to ride out South Korean protests

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SEOUL, South Korea — As predicted by Ambassador James Lilly months ago, the special U.S.-South Korean relationship, nurtured in bloody battle and unparalleled prosperity, has entered one of its "tough

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periods of anti-Americanism." At the time, the ambassador warned that expressions of that sentiment were apt to grow more intense before they lessened.

Now, with radical students daily shrieking "Yankee go home" slogans on the streets of Korean cities, U.S. officials are looking at the other side of the coin.

"This [U.S.-South Korea] relationship has survived some rough weather," said an American diplomat. "It will survive this storm."

But there is no guarantee that the students will call a truce for the

Olympic Games, which are to start Sept. 17.

The disorders continued yesterday as radicals hurled tear gas grenades and firebombs at the U.S. Information Service building in Taeju and thousands of students battled riot police to protest the blocking of a march to the North Korean border.

According to observers here, top U.S. officials tend to underestimate some forms of anti-Americanism in South Korea that are more serious than the thunder on the streets.

Secretary of Defense Frank C. Carlucci's press conference remark here last week — "I haven't seen any evidences of anti-Americanism" — is typical of such underestimations.

Those close to Korean attitudes note that, unless he found himself in the middle of a Yonsei University protest rally, no American official would be told to his face by a South Korean that he or his country is disliked or that American forces should leave.

The anti-U.S. feelings on the

streets, according to the observers, are ideological and fanned by North Korean sympathizers. But many older South Koreans hold deep-seated resentments against the United States as well.

A recent series of student attacks on U.S. facilities here has heightened public concern over anti-Americanism. Likewise, the anti-U.S. themes of the students' threatened march to meet their North Korean counterparts at Panmunjom, now postponed until Aug. 15, has stunned many older Koreans.

"In a sense, the incidents are nothing new," wrote Choe Jang-sok in The Korea Herald. "But the two recent cases [an attack on the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju] seemed to have greater psychological and political impact as they came on the eighth anniversary of the Kwangju uprising and amid mounting complaints over the harsh trade pressure Washington is imposing on Korea."

In a recent editorial, the largest

circulation daily (2 million) Chosun Ilbo said students and some dissidents are trying to propel the anti-American campaign into the mainstream, but without success.

The paper found the students' slogans and actions worrisome but said, "The United States is not a stumbling block for self-reliant national unification. The anti-American group presents a simple theory that the presence of the U.S. constitutes the presence of an alien force which, in turn, hinders the reunification of the Korean peninsula."

"The real obstruction to reunification, however, is the North Korean regime, which has never changed its policy to communize South Korea," the editorial said.

The students claim the United States is at fault for agreeing to the division of the Korean peninsula in the first place; for blocking "instant" reunification by the presence of 40,000 troops, impinging on South

Korean sovereignty; by placing Washington's global design ahead of the interests of South Koreans; and by overemphasizing South Korea's economic gains as making the country able to handle "get-tough" requests on trade issues.

There are elements of truth in each of these charges or situations, most of which are being discussed continuously in pragmatic ways by South Koreans and Americans.

Operational control of South Korea's army by an American commander is particularly sensitive. This is at the crux of radicals' claims that U.S. passivity allowed former President Chun Doo-hwan and one of his top generals, now President Roh Tae-woo, to use combat troops to quell the Kwangju uprising of 1980.

The situation feeds the charge of U.S. backing of military rulers. An upcoming full investigation of the Kwangju incident may reveal some U.S. miscues but also will reveal opposition politicians' use of the situa-

tion. Washington and Seoul will survive the investigation and be the better for it, most serious analysts believe.

The Kyunghyang Shinmun said in an editorial that it is no longer possible to label all students who express anti-American views as communists or leftists.

The newspaper cited "the incessant U.S. trade pressure on Korea, the pressure to increase the share of defense costs of U.S. troops in Korea, the Gulf and the Philippines" as among the factors stimulating the Korean people. Another factor listed was the "high-handed manner shown in the forcible sale of health-damaging cigarettes in Korea."

It advised students to keep in mind that but for the help of the United States during the Korean War, "our country would now be under the yoke of Kim Il-sung's dictatorial communist rule and the economic miracle would never be achieved."

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